

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

AVA MAN INDICTED ON WEAPONS OFFENSE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2007, **RANDALL D. McBRIDE**, age 43, of Ava, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment, charging him with possession of a firearm by a felon. The violation is alleged to have taken place on October 23, 2006, in Jackson County, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of not more than 10 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, and a term of 3 years' supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and United States Marshals Service pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses. The Jackson County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, Jackson County States Attorney's Office, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and United States Marshals Service.

The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.